

EO.-1538

**SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BOARD
OFFICE OF ENVIRONMENTAL ANALYSIS**

FINAL ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

ENVIRONMENTAL RECOMMENDATIONS IN DOCKET NO. AB 330 (Sub-No. 4X)

November 3, 2010

ABANDONMENT TYPE

The time for comments on the Environmental Assessment (EA) has expired in this:

(X) Notice of Exemption **()** Petition for Exemption **()** Regulated Abandonment

(X) NO NEW COMMENTS WERE RECEIVED

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OEA served an Environmental Assessment (EA) for this proceeding on October 15, 2010 for public review and comment.

Conclusions

The EA comment period has ended. Accordingly, OEA recommends that the following condition previously recommended in the EA should be imposed upon any decision granting abandonment authority:

The Otter Tail Valley Railroad Company, Inc., shall retain its interest in and take no steps to alter the historic integrity of all historic properties including sites, buildings, structures, and objects within the project right-of-way (the Area of Potential Effect) that are eligible for listing or listed in the National Register of Historic Places until the Section 106 process of the National Historic Preservation Act, 16 U.S.C. 470f, has been completed. The Otter Tail Valley Railroad Company, Inc., shall report back to the Office of Environmental Analysis (OEA) regarding any consultations with the Minnesota Historical Society and the public. The Otter Tail Valley Railroad Company, Inc., may not file its consummation notice or initiate any salvage activities related to abandonment (including removal of tracks and ties) until the Section 106 process has been completed and the Board has removed this condition.

If the above condition is imposed, OEA believes that the proposed action will not significantly affect the quality of the human environment.

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